

**SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the Meeting**

**March 20, 2003**

**2:00PM**

**Room 433, Blatt Building**

**Members Present:** Mr. Staton, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Daniel, Senator Giese, Dr. Gummerson, Mrs. Hoag, Mr. Lightsey, Mrs. Marlowe, Superintendent Tenenbaum, Representative Walker, and Mr. Wilson

**Inactive Member:** Mr. Hall

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting; he noted that the House of Representatives was in session; therefore, some members would not be able to attend.

**II. Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of the February 20 meeting were approved as distributed.

**III. Subcommittee Reports**

A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. (1) The Subcommittee recommended the approval of the Palmetto Achievement Challenge Tests: Social Studies for Grades Three through Eight. EOC recommendations had been addressed by the State Department of Education and documentation provided. Mr. Wilson moved approval, the assessments were approved. (2) Changes to the Accountability Manual: Mr. Wilson outlined several changes to the Accountability Manual including penalties for not making adequate yearly progress for *all* students to be applied at the excellent and good levels in the absolute rating; addition of SACS accreditation status, board orientation and character education measures to the school profile, changes to the calculation for the GSAH, application of the continuing excellence to the improvement rating for special schools, and addition of information required by No Child Left Behind. Mr. Wilson moved approval; the changes were approved as presented.

Mr. Wilson also asked that the SDE pursue actions to ensure that the data on the report card were accurate; suggesting verification through the signatures of a faculty member and the Chairperson of the School Improvement Council.

He also indicated that the EOC staff would be matching actions in the long-range plan to report card data.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Daniel reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He detailed the status of education appropriations in the Ways and Means and the House passed budgets for Fiscal Year 2004. Senator Giese raised several questions about the base student cost. Mr. Wilson recommended that the staff prepare information on the costs of fully funding the base student cost in low property wealth districts.

C. Parental Involvement: Mrs. Marlowe reported on behalf of the subcommittee. She announced that the EOC and SDE had received recognition for the parent standards materials as one of the ten most notable state government documents for 2002.

D. Public Awareness: Mr. Martin reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He presented the poster campaign and discussed other strategies to focus on teachers. Sample posters were displayed.

E. Administration: Mr. Staton had no report.

IV. **Response to EOC Comments on No *Child Left Behind* Proposal**

Superintendent Tenenbaum introduced Ellen Still who outlined changes to the proposal based upon the SDE meetings with representatives of the United States Department of Education.

V. **Remarks from a Key Constituency**

Mrs. Anne Poole, Principal of the Washington Center (Greenville County School District) introduced a video tape outlining challenges of the PACT-Alternate reporting when used with moderate to severely handicapped students. She requested the EOC and SDE (1) work together to make changes in the assessment's data collection mechanisms that ease the burden on teachers and increase utility in teaching; (2) ask the congressional delegation to address appropriate assessment in the reauthorization of IDEA; and (3) consider measures more linked with the IEP objectives and aligned with state standards that support instruction in functional skills as well.

Mrs. Hoag asked several questions. Mrs. Spearman (for Superintendent Tenenbaum) thanked Mrs. Poole for her suggestions and indicated that the SDE was willing to work with the educators to make the appropriate changes.

VI. **Executive Session**

Mr. Martin moved that the EOC go into executive session to consider a contractual matter.

VII. **Return to Open Session**

Mr. Martin moved that the EOC return to open session. Mr. Martin moved that the selection of the evaluation committee on the public awareness campaign proposals be approved. The motion passed.

VIII. **Adjournment**

The EOC adjourned at 4:10 p.m.